assumed by Mr. Kyan, that the cause of dry rot is to be sought for in the decomposition of the albumen of the sap; and thus forming a substance indecomposable by the usual agencies of decay, it constitutes the principle of his patent. Doubtless, albumen may be arrested in its tendency to decay by chloride of mercury, or by corrosive sublimate; but it is sheer assumption and rank folly to say that dry rot has to do with the albumen of the sap. To say so may sound very well in useless theories, but it will not avail in practice.

"Sir William Burnet, in his counter patent, employs, I have been given to understand, a salt of zinc.

"The great price of mercury is an obstacle to Kyan's plan, provided it were useful to the public; and it seems that great success does not follow the process. I heard that Sir H. Davy had selected chloride of mercury for a similar purpose, but afterwards abandoned it. I opposed it on the same ground, that in tropical climes it would be as poisonous as the quicksilver mines of Illyria. Independently of their appearance even in embryo, although its ready decomposition by the contact of iron or an alkali, there is, unhappily for the cause of truth and the advance of genuine knowledge, much favouritism in a name, and party spirit runs as high in the coteries of science as in the upper regions of politics. Sir John Barrow, in his "Life of Lord Anson," has entirely impugned Kyan's process. The Duke of Portland has done the same thing in 1838, and to the same effect are the conclusions of Lord Manners, and a host of other scientific men.

"Dr. Moore in his experiments at Plymouth has shewn that kyanized wood is not proof against the ravages of the *Teredo navalis*, or sea worm; it was honeycombed like the rest; and of this fact I have a proof before my eyes daily.

"The experiments made at Welbeck in the mushroom house are very instructive and important, and appear entirely conclusive. Good Baltic timber in these trials lasted longer than the best kyanized oak. In other places it has been tried, and invariably found, kyanized or not, to decay, especially when exposed to the sea or salt water. On the other hand, pyrolignite of iron will resist decay longer than any timber prepared by patentees. I may here add, that I wrote on this subject ten years ago, and recommended pyrolignite of iron. I have also experimentally proved that pyrolignite of iron, or chloride of copper, will coagulate albumen, and therefore this property does not exclusively pertain to corrosive sublimate.

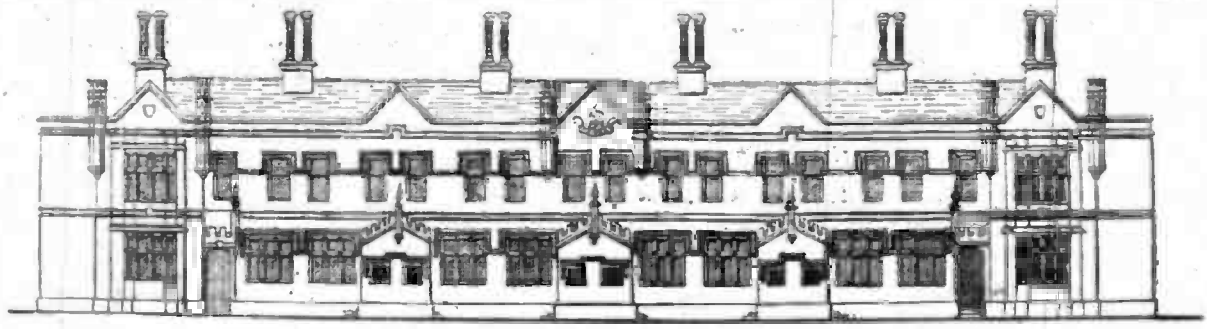
"I am satisfied to leave the profession to judge whether pyrolignite of iron, &c. has not in point of practice superseded all the patents. Look at the chain pier at Brighton, and you will see an attempt to use a substitute for it, by covering the piles with iron nails, which is an expensive process compared with the real remedy."

THE NEW BUILDING ACT.

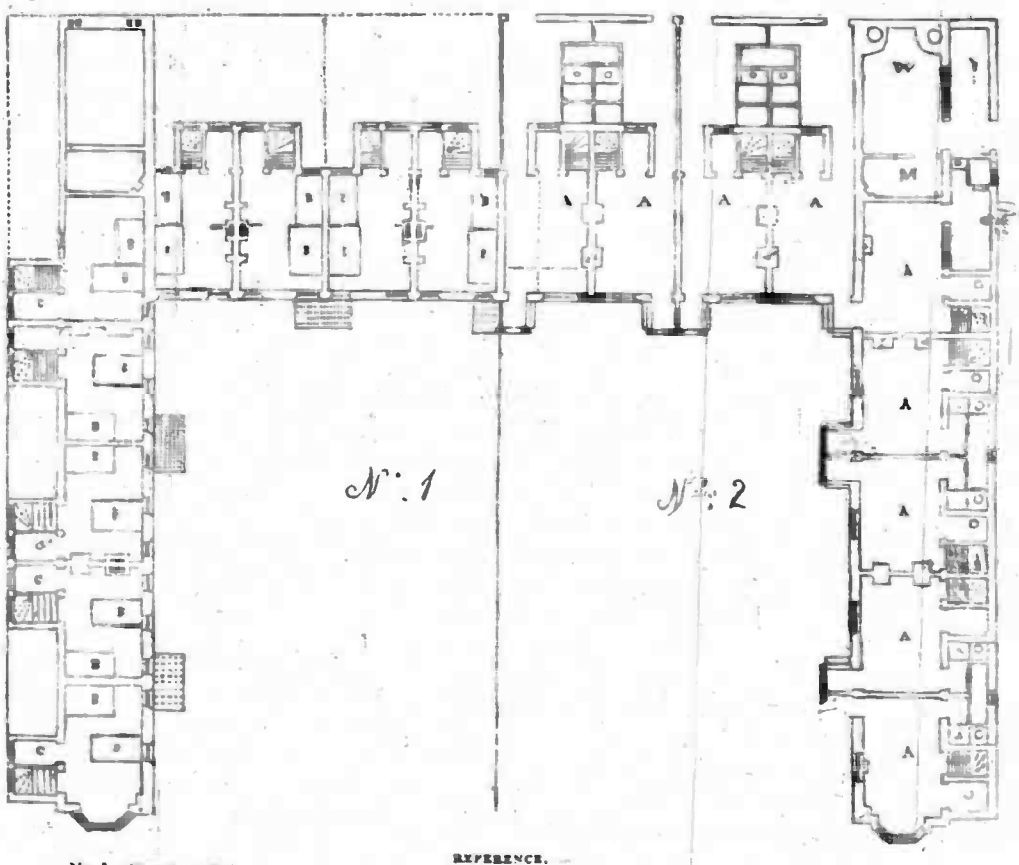
A COMMITTEE of the Master Carpenters' Society met on Tuesday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, to take into consideration the several clauses in the intended New Building Act; Mr. H. Biers, the president, in the chair. After a most mature consideration, which lasted ten hours, it was decided to recommend to the Society to petition Parliament to appoint a Select Committee to take evidence upon the Bill, some of its provisions being extremely prejudicial to the community at large, and tending most materially to increase the expense in every new building, and, consequently, the rental of those houses; and as to some of the clauses being quite unnecessary, and with trifling alterations in others.

It was the unanimous opinion of the members of the committee, that with judicious alteration of the Bill in a committee of the House of Commons, the intended Act will be a great improvement upon the 14 of Geo. III., which the present Act repeal.

The Bill evidently appears to have been drawn by THEORETICAL instead of PRACTICAL men. The whole of the district will lay under much obligation for the determined and business-like way in which the Society of Master Carpenters have taken up this very important matter.



Approved Design for the Spalding Almshouses, Lincolnshire, W. Todd, Esq., Architect.



No. 1. Chamber Plan.
B. Beds. C. Closets.

REFERENCE.

No. 2. Ground Plan.
A. Living Rooms. M. Mangle House. Y. Yard.

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